

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### TRIBUTE TO ISHPEMING SKI CLUB 120TH ANNUAL SKI JUMPING TOURNAMENT

#### HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Michigan's Upper Peninsula's greatest most esteemed, and long-standing institutions: the Ishpeming Ski Club. Founded in 1887 as the Norden Ski Club, the Ishpeming Ski Club is the oldest continuously active ski club in our Nation.

Later this month, the Ishpeming Ski Club will sponsor its 120th annual Ski Jumping Tournament. For twelve decades now, skiers from across our Nation have convened in Ishpeming to participate in one of the oldest ski jumping tournaments anywhere. The Ishpeming Ski Club's first tournament was held 120 years ago on February 25 and, this year, the Ski Club will hold its tournament on that same date in order to honor the 120 years of continuous ski jumping tournaments.

The city of Ishpeming has a rich heritage that is closely intertwined with the history of skiing in the United States. Many ski jumping enthusiasts recognize this small town of 7,500 people, nestled just outside of Marquette, as the birthplace of American ski jumping. The National Ski Association was formed in Ishpeming in 1905. Today, the association is called the United States Ski and Snowboard Association.

While there have been ski jumping competitions at many different locations in Ishpeming, in 1926, the tournament began to use its current site, which has been the site for the tournament ever since.

The National Ski Hall of Fame was erected in Ishpeming in 1953 and follows the growth and development of the sport of skiing from its beginnings nearly 5,000 years ago to the present and beyond. There are over 100 displays including the Story of the 10th Mountain Division, Ski Fashions Throughout History, and the Development of the Chairlift. The placement of the National Ski Hall of Fame in Ishpeming is a testament to the formative role the city and its residents played in the development of skiing and ski jumping in America and the world.

The Ishpeming ski jumping site provides some of the best ski jumping in the Midwest and, as such, has been used for tryouts for the Olympics, as well as hosted numerous nationally acclaimed skiing events. In both 1960 and 1963, the Ishpeming ski jump site was used for Olympics tryouts. In 1983, the tournament hosted the USA Central Division Championships, the Junior Olympic tryouts and the Masters Championship all on the same weekend. In 1987, Ishpeming hosted the Nordic Combined National Championships.

Skiing is not only important to the way of life in Ishpeming, but it has also helped unite the community. Every year at the Ishpeming an-

nual tournament, local citizens and community groups have organized parades, dog sled races, princess pageants, dances and balls. This year, the Ishpeming Downtown Development Association will sponsor a parade, youth dog sled races, fireworks, and a bonfire. In previous years, neighboring communities such as Negaunee and nearby businesses such as Cleveland Cliffs Mining Company have provided support for the festive events that surround Ishpeming's annual ski jump tournament.

As Ishpeming celebrates its 120th ski jumping tournament, the future is bright. Next year, in 2008, Ishpeming's tournament will host the Junior Nordic championship and 50 young ski jumpers from around the Nation will compete in Ishpeming to be the top American ski jumper in their age group.

Madam Speaker, ski jumping is an ancient sport, but American ski jumping developed relatively recent. Its evolution is in many ways a uniquely Midwestern phenomenon. I am proud of the way the city of Ishpeming and the Ishpeming Ski Club have contributed to the popularity of this sport in the United States. I am confident Ishpeming has an exciting role to play as this sport continues to evolve in coming decades. In the meantime, I respectfully request that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating the City of Ishpeming and its residents as well as the Ishpeming Ski Club and its officers and volunteers on the anniversary of its 120th ski jump tournament.

### TRIBUTE TO HILARY LEWIS

#### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Hilary Lewis, who will be honored for her 30 years of service to Jewish education in the Greater Kansas City area on February 25. The Jewish Educators' Council of CAJE/The Jewish Federation, along with our community, will recognize Hilary's many contributions as a Jewish educator and for her work at CAJE, formally the Central Agency for Jewish Education.

Over the years, Hilary has worked with educators, parents and students to provide children at all congregations the best Jewish education possible. She has been instrumental as the principal of the Community High School of Jewish Studies, in providing continuing and relevant educational opportunities for hundreds of teens during their high school years. She has a talent for inspiring these young people to go beyond the acquisition of basic knowledge and she mentors them as they discover their own talents in reaching higher levels of understanding.

In addition to her work with children, Hilary has inspired many adults to share their love of Judaism and become religious school teach-

ers. Hilary is the ultimate problem solver and uses her incredible creativity to guide and inspire these teachers while helping them develop the skills needed to educate our youth.

Hilary Lewis has and will continue to be one of the premier Jewish educators in the Greater Kansas City area, helping our community grow "from strength to strength." Madam Speaker, I know that all members of the U.S. House of Representatives join with me in paying tribute to this valued educator and leader of the Kansas City community.

### THE PURPLE HEART FAMILY EQUITY ACT

#### HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce H.R. 1119, the Purple Heart Family Equity Act.

I am pleased to introduce this legislation along with my distinguished colleagues Congressman ROY BLUNT and Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX. We seek to fully honor the women of the Armed Forces who have won the Purple Heart defending our great freedoms and their families.

The Purple Heart, Madam Speaker, is a military decoration awarded to service members who have been wounded or killed while serving with the U.S. military. Modeled after the Badge of Military Merit given by George Washington to members of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, the Purple Heart is the oldest military decoration currently in use and was the first to be made available to every service member.

It is time we built upon the great traditions of the Purple Heart and fully recognize the women who have received this high honor. Surely, their wounds and sacrifices are just as meaningful.

Male members of the Order are allowed to invite their wives to join with limited membership benefits, according to the current Federal Charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart. But female members are not allowed to invite their husbands. Surely, we here in this Chamber are not in the business of extending rights to our brave men who receive this award but not our brave women.

I stand here today to urge my colleagues to support the Purple Heart Family Equity Act. This bill will update the Federal Charter of the Military Order of the Purple Heart to allow husbands of female members of the Order to become Associate Members.

The first women to be awarded the Purple Heart was 1LT Annie G. Fox. She was awarded this distinction in 1941 after the attack on

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



Pearl Harbor where she made the ultimate sacrifice for her country. It has been 66 years and it is time we acted to fully honor the courageous women who are bestowed with the Purple Heart. Let us honor the memory of First Lieutenant Fox and the countless other women who have made unimaginable sacrifices for all of us by voting yes on H.R. 1119.

#### HONORING 2007 TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

##### HON. JOHN A. YARMUTH

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. YARMUTH. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the three members of the Tuskegee Airmen from my home district: Morris Washington, Alvin LaRue, Julius Calloway. Sixty-five years ago, legally mandated bigotry permeated every aspect of civilian life. Opportunities for a Black man or woman were few, for the most superficial of reasons: the color of their skin. Still, when Congress demanded the formation of an all Black Army Air Corps unit in March of 1941, hundreds signed up for the 99th Pursuit Squadron to defend the country that oppressed them.

These brave men became the Tuskegee Airmen, and they did more than merely enlist. Ten months later, America found itself in the thralls of the Second World War. But despite showing remarkable aptitude—96 was the lowest score among all their flight tests—a deep sense of racism blinded their commanders to the proper and necessary action, and the Airmen were initially left out of combat. But as the conflict wore on, necessity sent these dedicated and capable men of valor into the skies where they deftly completed mission after mission, giving America a vital thrust in our efforts to defeat the Axis powers.

In their legendary P-51 Mustangs, the Tuskegee Airmen astonished their doubters by prevailing against the Nazis who frequently outnumbered them. Soon, the Airmen were known for the prowess rather than their race and inspired a legend that they had never lost a single man to enemy fire.

By the end of the war, they had flown more than 15,000 sorties on 1,500 missions and were awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, 744 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, several Bronze and Silver Stars, and most recently a Congressional Gold Medal.

Though officially recognized for their heroic accomplishments, the Airmen returned home to a nation still paralyzed by racial hatred and two more decades of legalized segregation.

Every citizen who enjoys the freedom that America offers owes a debt to these courageous men who, rather than seek revenge, chose to look past their own oppression and see the potential of their Nation's greatness. We are ashamed of the treatment they received and hope to follow their example, building a society where racial bigotry can be found only in the annals of our history books.

I am proud that three of these heroes, Morris Washington, Alvin LaRue, and Julius Calloway, still call my district of Louisville, KY, home. I am honored to represent them and hope that you will all join me in giving them the recognition they deserve.

#### TRIBUTE TO BARBARO

##### HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize horse racing's most inspirational figure, Barbaro. In his short-lived life, Barbaro quickly became one of the sport's most respected and beloved champions. Foaled on April 29, 2003, this American thoroughbred racehorse warmed his way into the hearts of many Americans with his success on the track and his courage through injury.

Barbaro knew nothing but success in his racing career, winning his first six races and earning winnings of over \$2 million. Yet despite his undefeated record through his first five starts, his achievements went largely unnoticed until May 6, 2006. On that day, his victory at the Kentucky Derby earned him the respect of horse racing fans nationwide. Barbaro entered the race with odds of 6 to 1. After stumbling at the start, Barbaro moved easily to the front when the leading horses tired at the five-sixteenths pole and he glided through the stretch to win in a fast time of 2 minutes, 1.36 seconds. Barbaro's final quarter-mile run of 24 and one fifth seconds was the fastest since Secretariat's in 1973, and his victory margin of 6½ lengths was the longest since Triple Crown winner Assault won the Derby by eight in 1946. As the crowd celebrated and looked on the horse with amazement, jockey Edgar Prado rode Barbaro into the winner's circle, pumping his fists at 108,065 cheering fans, the second largest crowd in Derby history.

A new hero had been born as Barbaro became just the sixth undefeated winner in the Derby's 132 year history. His impressive performance under the Twin Spires at Churchill Downs inspired diehard racing fans and casual observers alike. Heading into The Preakness as the heavy favorite, Barbaro was thought by many to have the best chance of becoming the first Triple Crown winner since 1978.

As fate would have it, Barbaro was unable to finish the race due to what would become a fatal injury. Barbaro shocked spectators by breaking through the starting gate just before the race began. After being reloaded, he tore away from the gate, determined not to let his previous jumpstart stand in the way of victory. But just seconds into the race, Barbaro broke down in his right hind leg and was prudently pulled up by Prado. Barbaro fans would soon learn that he had fractured three bones in and around the ankle of his right hind leg, making it impossible for him to race ever again.

Nevertheless, Barbaro's terrifying breakdown on national television would not be his legacy. Instead, the story of this great horse became a tale of unyielding love and determination that captured the attention of millions across the country. The unprecedented level of care and advanced medical treatment offered by Barbaro's owners, Roy and Gretchen Jackson, and his medical team were displayed on network news shows and national magazines. Get-well cards and letters from around the world were sent to him throughout his struggle to recover.

Despite receiving the best possible care and an outpouring of public affection, Barbaro's eight month battle for life was characterized by

significant progress followed by substantial setbacks. On January 29, 2007, Roy and Gretchen Jackson came to the conclusion with Barbaro's veterinarian, Dr. Dean W. Richardson, that Barbaro was in too much pain and that it was no longer possible for Barbaro to make the miracle recovery everyone was hoping for.

Barbaro's fight for life demonstrated unique courage and remarkable spirit that captured the hearts of America. Millions of people embraced this amazing racehorse, followed his struggle, and waited for his miracle recovery. We all hoped and prayed for a happy ending to this fairy tale story but there would be no such ending.

Barbaro's story is one of great perseverance and great integrity that was shown day in and day out by him, his owners, and his caregivers. Barbaro proved that greatness is not only achieved on the racetrack but through a willingness and determination to overcome all obstacles life may present. This son of Dynaformer out of Carson City mare La Ville Rouge gave us a lifetime of memories to be proud of, and he will be remembered in the annals of horse racing for all of history.

#### RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF WAYNE PEACOCK

##### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to recognize the retirement of Wayne Peacock. Over the last three decades, Mr. Peacock dedicated his work to local government in my district in northwest Florida.

After growing up in Pensacola and graduating from Pensacola High School, Wayne joined the United States Marine Corps. This devotion to country and desire to serve and help others would be a resonating theme throughout the rest of his life. After 4 years in the corps, he went back to college and received a bachelor of science degree at the University of West Florida.

Mr. Peacock's first job out of college was a teacher, which helped fine tune his ability to guide and inspire other people. Over the next 3 years, he worked as a counselor with several different programs under the Community Action Program. These programs were set up to help people of different ages who were unemployed or disadvantaged to join the workforce and set employment goals.

Over the next several years, Wayne continued his dedicated service to the community. He moved up within the Community Action Program becoming responsible for its overall curriculum, as well as serving as liaison to local educational institutions, ensuring compliance with Federal regulations, and maintaining the program's success.

By 1977, Wayne Peacock had already made a tremendous impact on thousands of lives as he helped people get back on their feet and join the American workforce. With his energy still full as ever and as others recognized his knowledge of community-based programs, he became an interagency coordinator for all of Escambia County—a position which coordinated all social service programs involving local, State, and Federal agencies. Wayne



handled this increased responsibility with ease and soon he became the director of the Community Services Department. During his 3 years time in this position, he saw the department's budget increase by nearly 20 percent and successfully supervised eight divisions within the department, administering programs to not only help the unemployed but also veterans and families.

Wayne's vast contribution to Escambia County and his ability to administer so many programs at once eventually resulted in being hired as the Assistant County Administrator. His supervision of nearly 800 employees was instrumental in the continued growth of a number of county programs—programs ranging from transportation to agriculture and healthcare to industrial services. It was only natural for him to become the County Administrator for the next 3 years. In this capacity, he reported directly to the Board of County Commissioners and also served as the Director of Emergency Management. Escambia County was in good hands with Wayne in this position—he knew the county inside and out. Even after 1991, as he became the Trial Court Administrator for the First Judicial Circuit of Florida, a position he holds to this day, Wayne's work for this area has not stopped.

There is no question that Wayne was a civic leader for northwest Florida who set the bar high for those who followed. His leadership and knowledge has left Escambia County a better place, and his service to those in his community will be missed. I remain confident that Wayne's input will still play a great role for local leaders.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great admiration that I recognize the retirement of Mr. Wayne Peacock. May his years ahead be filled with joy, and may they shine with good health and happiness.

#### HONORING THE BUCKS COUNTY WOMEN'S FUND

**HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my privilege to rise before you today in recognition of the Bucks County Women's Fund.

For sixteen years the Bucks County Women's Fund has provided more than \$200,000 to 36 local organizations to support programming in the critical areas of domestic violence prevention, economic self-sufficiency, vocational education, finance, leadership, mentorship and literacy. The Fund has opened countless doors to the women and girls of Bucks County, recognizing their potential for success and presenting them with opportunities to achieve their dreams.

The Bucks County Women's Fund is a real source of inspiration to the citizens and organizations back home, and clearly demonstrates how much we all benefit from the advancement of women. The Fund leads by example: women manage the Fund, run its programs and promote policies for women's rights. It is also active in a global network of funds with common goals, working to ensure rights and opportunities for girls and women

all over the world. What started as a humble organization has now established an endowment, ensuring that it will continue as a pillar of our community for years to come.

Madam Speaker, the mission of the Fund has a special significance for me personally. My daughter Maggie was born three months ago, and I want to thank the Bucks County Women's Fund for building a better future for my little girl and all of the girls and women in our county. I offer my hearty congratulations as they prepare for "Creating Change, Transforming Lives," their 16th annual dinner celebration on March 8, 2007. Madam Speaker, on Maggie's behalf, I commend the Fund as it continues its good work for our wives, mothers, sisters, daughters and friends.

#### HONORING THE MEMORY OF MR. THOMAS STEPHEN GLEASON, SR.

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a good man, a proud American, and a fine member of the south Alabama community, Mr. Thomas Stephen Gleason, Sr., who passed away last month.

An excellent businessman and a true community leader, Mr. Gleason was loved by his family and friends and respected by his peers. South Alabama is truly a better place because of the life of Tommy.

A resident of Mobile since childhood, Mr. Gleason made many important contributions, professionally as well as personally, to the advancement of south Alabama. After graduating from McGill Institute and Spring Hill College, Mr. Gleason began what was an almost 50 year real estate career. At one time, he was even the youngest licensed realtor in the State of Alabama. In 1975, Tommy founded Gleason and Associates, which has been instrumental in transforming commercial real estate development in south Alabama. Gleason and Associates has been responsible for bringing many companies to south Alabama, including several of the district's leading employers.

Along with his significant professional success, Tommy led a highly involved civic life as well. Mr. Gleason was a member of the Jaycees, the Board of the Museum of Mobile, as well as St. Ignatius Parish. He was loved by many, and he loved life, particularly time spent golfing at the Country Club of Mobile, and fishing with the Mobile Big Game Fishing Club, where he served as board member.

Madam Speaker, Thomas Stephen Gleason, Sr., is survived by his wife of 45 years, Frances; a son, Thomas Stephen Gleason, Jr.; a daughter, Mary Gleason Geil; and 3 grandchildren. May his family know that they are in the thoughts and prayers of so many in South Alabama.

#### HONORING STEPHANIE DUNTON

**HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Stephanie Dunton from Winterport, a small town in central Maine.

Stephanie, a student at Samuel L. Wagner Middle School, was recently named one of the top two youth volunteers in Maine for the 12th Annual Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. This program is America's largest youth recognition program based exclusively on volunteerism.

Stephanie is a tireless young woman who has given her time and energy to help the less fortunate. Inspired by her sister's satisfaction from volunteering, Stephanie searched for her own community service project. Initially, she wanted to volunteer at her local food pantry, but was unable to do so since she attended classes during the pantry's hours of operations.

Stephanie instead went above and beyond, creating and conducting her own monthly food drive called the "Food Shuttle," which has collected more than one thousand pounds of donated food for a local pantry. Her dedication is truly extraordinary and deserves our sincere admiration and respect.

While numerous studies have shown that Americans today are less involved in their communities than before, it is essential that we support the kind of selfless contributions that people like Stephanie have made. She is an inspiring example to all of us, serving as one of our brightest hopes for a better tomorrow.

I join with her family, friends and community in congratulating Stephanie for this fine honor. The citizens of the State of Maine are extremely fortunate to have such a fine, young public servant.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE "FIGHTING LONGRACKS"

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to praise the courage, dedication, and selflessness of the following 116th Air Control Squadron volunteers.

The "Fighting Longracks" from Camp Rilea, Warrenton, Oregon answered the call of service and stood up, so their active duty counterparts could temporarily stand down for the holidays.

From September 2006 through January 2007 the Oregon Air National Guard in association with citizen-aiemen from Air National Guard units from Hawaii, Ohio, Puerto Rico, and Wisconsin provided tactical command and control for all combat assets within Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, too often we stand here in this chamber to publicly acknowledge the contribution of our military and their families after a tragedy—we honor our fallen—and often forget the living, our veterans.

Lieutenant Colonel Timothy Olson, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Gregory, Major Paul Evans,



Major Keith Townsend, Captain Leon McGuire, Captain Bryan Habas, Captain Victoria Habas, Senior Master Sergeant Robert Birman, Senior Master Sergeant Ralph Lehman, Senior Master Sergeant Leslie Wright, Master Sergeant William Baer, Master Sergeant Randy Dickenson, Master Sergeant Donald Hillgaertner, Master Sergeant Gary Gudge, Master Sergeant Cory Jackson, Master Sergeant Albert Luquette, Master Sergeant Adam Melerski, Master Sergeant Troy Mitchell, Master Sergeant Richard Murren, Technical Sergeant Ann Chancey, Technical Sergeant Edwin Corcoran, Technical Sergeant Carl Domingo, Technical Sergeant Robert Foreman, Technical Sergeant Bryan Garret, Technical Sergeant Matthew Gudge, Technical Sergeant George McMahan, Staff Sergeant Michelle Nelson, and Staff Sergeant Laurence Rose raised their hands, willingly accepted duties in wartorn Afghanistan, and served us with honor.

These airmen worked with our allies in the region to provide command and control that sustained complex, time critical air sovereignty missions in support of International Stabilization Assistance Force (ISAF) priorities. Their contributions cannot be overstated, nor in truth measured.

As a Congresswoman from Oregon, I am proud of what these citizen-airmen accomplished, and humbled by their continued willingness to answer the call of a nation that is in need far more often than anyone expected.

I ask this chamber to recognize and applaud these airmen who like hundreds of thousands of their peers ask for little, give everything they can, and believe our America is worth the sacrifice.

Thank you for standing a post that few even know exists.

**EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE  
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD,  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM  
THE STATE OF GEORGIA**

SPEECH OF

**HON. JO BONNER**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2007*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the memory of former Georgia Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD and his lifetime of dedication to the people of Georgia and the United States. I was deeply saddened to learn our colleague passed away earlier this week. We have not only lost a wonderful friend, but an individual who during his lifetime made countless contributions toward the betterment of our Nation.

CHARLIE, a native of Valdosta, Georgia, began his career of service by volunteering for the U.S. Army, serving as captain in the Dental Corps. He served in Vietnam, where he distinguished himself under combat conditions, and he was awarded the Combat Medical Badge and two Bronze Stars. Immediately after his discharge, CHARLIE opened his dental practice in Augusta. He was highly involved in many professional organizations, serving as president of both the Eastern District Dental Society and the Georgia Dental Association.

In 1994, CHARLIE was elected to represent the 10th District of Georgia in the United

States House of Representatives. Throughout his six terms, CHARLIE was a champion of patients' rights, introducing his Patient's Bill of Rights. He also fought for health care reform for military retirees and veterans. CHARLIE also served with distinction as a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and the Education and the Workforce Committee.

We are privileged to have known and worked with such a passionate and loyal individual. CHARLIE will be greatly missed and always remembered. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated statesman. Dr. NORWOOD will be deeply missed by his family—his wife, Gloria Wilkinson Norwood, and his sons, Charles Norwood and Carlton Norwood—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

**JUSTICE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY  
OFFICERS ACT**

**HON. DAVID DREIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, on January 9, 2007, Armando Garcia, the primary suspect in the murder of Los Angeles County Sheriffs Deputy David March, was extradited to the United States. It was four years, eight months, and ten days that the family and colleagues of Deputy March were forced to wait for his killer to face extradition.

We know that when our public safety officers perform their duties every day, whether patrolling their neighborhoods, protecting the courts, riding in an ambulance, or fighting a fire, they are working to ensure the protection of all of us. Because they are constantly putting their lives on the line, we must do everything we can to ensure that criminals who harm or threaten those who protect the public receive a punishment that matches the seriousness of the crimes they commit.

Madam Speaker, it is with these dedicated public safety officers in mind that I am proud to introduce the Justice for Public Safety Officers Act with my friend from Pasadena, Congressman ADAM SCHIFF. This bill, which is based upon legislation that Mr. SCHIFF and I introduced in the last Congress, sends a clear message that justice will no longer be abused by fleeing murderers.

As we know, under Federal law, it is a crime to kill a Federal, State, or local public safety officer if they are engaged in a Federal investigation. It is also a Federal crime to flee to another country to avoid prosecution. However, the crime of fleeing is punishable by no more than five years in prison, and as little as merely paying a fine. The Justice for Public Safety Officers Act takes an important step toward establishing stiffer penalties by imposing a mandatory minimum of 30 years in prison for murdering a public safety officer and an additional mandatory minimum of 10 years for traveling between States or countries with the intent to avoid prosecution.

When Deputy March was brutally slain execution-style during a routine traffic stop, Armando Garcia, an illegal immigrant, fled to Mexico within hours of Deputy March's murder to avoid prosecution by U.S. authorities.

At the time of the murder, Mexico refused to extradite individuals who may face the death penalty or life imprisonment, therefore hindering efforts to bring Armando Garcia back to the United States to face prosecution for his crime. The same border that Garcia illegally crossed to enter our country served as a wall of protection for almost 5 years.

I joined many of my colleagues and Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca in efforts to see that Armando Garcia and other fugitives accused in killings on our soil are returned to the United States to face justice. We met with officials from the Department of Justice and the State Department. We urged President Bush to call for aggressive action to change Mexico's extradition policy. I met with then President Vicente Fox and other high officials of the Mexican government, including their Supreme Court, in an effort to impress upon our neighbor that its extradition policy is intolerable.

We reached a critical turning point in 2005 when the Mexican Supreme Court issued a decision that allowed consecutive prison terms for certain murders. This decision ultimately paved the way for Armando Garcia's arrest in Tonalá, Jalisco, Mexico, on February 23, 2006 and his extradition to the United States on January 9.

For those of us who were involved with this case, January 9 will always have conflicting emotions. On the one hand, we know that this day marked a victory for the rule of law, sending a clear message that no one should be allowed to commit an act of murder and flee to another country to avoid prosecution. And yet, it also stands as a painful reminder of the loss of Deputy March and the danger that all public safety officers face on a daily basis.

Madam Speaker, the handcuffs that hung from Deputy March's belt the day he was killed were shackled to Armando Garcia as he was brought into U.S. custody last month. I am encouraged that Deputy March's killer has finally been extradited to the United States. But we must continue to work to ensure that the service performed by this Nation's public safety officers is honored by making certain that those who wish to do them harm face stiff penalties for their actions. Passage of this bill will guarantee that perpetrators of heinous crimes against public safety officers will be brought to justice.

**INTRODUCTION OF THE "SWIFT  
APPROVAL, FULL EVALUATION  
(SAFE) DRUG ACT"**

**HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation, SAFE, Drug Act. This bill is designed to ensure that the FDA can balance the need to get important life-saving drugs to the market quickly while ensuring the drugs get the full evaluation they need to ensure the safety of those products.

Earlier this week the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee of the Energy and Commerce held its very first oversight hearing of the 110th Congress on drug safety. At the hearing several FDA whistleblowers testified



about the truly frightening problems at the FDA including: 1. a culture of suppression and intimidation, 2. a lack of transparency into the review process, 3. the inaction of FDA management in response to serious drug risks, 4. a lack of scientific freedom and the inability of FDA reviewers to have their concerns heard by senior management, FDA advisory committees, and the public.

Their powerful testimonies add to the concerns raised in the Institute of Medicine report, the GAO Report, and the Inspector General of HHS report that the FDA's system to ensure that postmarketing studies are conducted and completed is broken and the FDA has not made reform a priority.

It is clear from the whistleblowers' testimonies and these three major reports that the FDA is a deeply troubled agency that has failed time and time again to act in the best interest of the public. The failures of the FDA to protect the public have been widely reported by the media and the public is losing confidence in the FDA's ability to keep us safe.

According to a recent Wall Street Journal Online/Harris Interactive poll, 80 percent of adults say they are concerned about the FDA's ability to make independent decisions that will ensure that patients have access to safe and effective medicines.

We need the FDA to be a watchdog for public health, not a lapdog for the industry. We need to bring back transparency, accountability and scientific integrity to the FDA.

That is why today I am reintroducing the Swift Approval, Full Evaluation, SAFE, Drug Act to provide greater transparency into the approval process and a stronger postmarket safety system.

The SAFE Drug Act will:

1. Increase FDA authority with respect to postmarket safety, including giving the FDA the ability to mandate labeling and require postmarket studies.

2. Provide FDA greater authority with respect to the Accelerated Approval process, by ensuring postmarket study plans are reviewed prior to approval; requiring proper labeling until drugs are fully approved; and restricting advertising for accelerated approved drugs or biologics until full approval.

3. Provide enhanced whistleblower protections to FDA employees.

4. Preserve scientific integrity at FDA by prohibiting FDA employees from directing other FDA employees to censor or suppress scientific research, analysis, opinions or recommendations or directing employees to disseminate scientific information that is known to be false or misleading.

5. Require the FDA to provide Advisory Committees with complete information.

6. Ensure scientific freedom at FDA, by guaranteeing FDA and FDA-sponsored authors the right to publish or present their work.

7. Increase FDA transparency, by requiring a biennial report to Congress on noninferiority studies and a biannual report to Congress on postmarket studies system.

The time to act is now. I look forward to working with my colleagues to stop the erosion of public confidence in the FDA, provide greater transparency into the approval process, reform the system of postmarketing studies, and ensure that FDA balances the desire to speed drugs to market with its critical role as the watchdog of public health.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES AND  
JEANETTE HENDERSON

### HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is with great honor that I rise today to recognize the community contributions of Charles and Jeannette Henderson to Northwest Florida.

Nearly 20 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Henderson began researching their family genealogy, and published two books, "The Track of the Jackson" and "The Trail of the Griffith." Their passion for collecting and preserving their own history later prompted the founding of the North Okaloosa Historical Association in 1992. With grants and fundraising, this body purchased the old General Store in Baker, Florida, and transformed the 1908 landmark into the Baker Block Museum.

Mr. and Mrs. Henderson have been the devoted caretakers of this museum since its inception. They have been instrumental in creating one of the largest genealogical libraries in Okaloosa County and continue to oversee the restoration and preservation of historical artifacts.

To honor the Henderson's inspiration and dedication to their community, the Okaloosa Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution to proclaim a local park to be named "The Jeanette and Charles Henderson Heritage Park." The Henderson's dedication and vision will forever be appreciated and treasured for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Charles and Jeanette Henderson for their contributions to the preservation of their community heritage.

### INTRODUCTION OF THE HATE CRIMES STATISTICS IMPROVE- MENT ACT

### HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, along with Representatives BARBARA LEE, ELIJAH CUMMINGS, ZOE LOFGREN, LYNN WOOLSEY, and GEORGE MILLER, I am reintroducing the "Hate Crimes Statistics Improvement Act" which will ensure that hate crimes motivated by gender are accounted for by the FBI and local law enforcement agencies. With accurate data, local communities can identify gender-based hate crimes in their areas and chart their progress toward eliminating them. Moreover, the inclusion of gender will send a strong message that gender-based hate crimes will not be tolerated.

In States with gender-based hate crimes laws, prosecutors typically must present concrete evidence that the criminal act was committed due to gender bias. Obviously, not all crimes against women are gender-based crimes, and prosecutors should have discretion in identifying what constitutes a gender-

based hate crime. The process of discussing these differences will improve the understanding of all hate crimes by law enforcement personnel and will improve reporting of these tragic crimes.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

### TRIBUTE TO THE CURRENT AND FORMER AFRICAN-AMERICAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

### HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Congressional Black Caucus, I rise today to pay tribute to the current and former African-American Members of Congress with Chairwoman KILPATRICK and my distinguished colleague, Congresswoman STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

Our Nation can feel proud today that a record number of 43 black or African-American Members serve in the 110th Congress; 42 in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate. In total, there have been 119 black Members of Congress: 114 elected to the House and five to the Senate. Of those, 110 have been members with full voting rights in the House, a number that corresponds with the number of Congresses convened since our Nation's independence.

Voters sent the first black member to Congress during reconstruction. His name was Hiram Rhodes Revels (R-MS) and he served in the Senate in the 41st Congress (1870). His first black counterpart in the House, Joseph H. Rainey (R-SC), came during that same session.

Since then, African Americans have extended the honor roll of "firsts" and "greatest," "largests" and "most actives" in both chambers. The 103rd Congress saw the largest class of black freshmen ever elected. Today, in the 110th Congress, we have five African-American full committee chairmen and 17 subcommittee chairs. Such a concentration of leadership is unprecedented. In addition to our constituents, we have our predecessors to thank.

Each current and former member of this august body owes a debt of gratitude to the members emeritus who came before them. Each African-American child who dreams of ascending to elected office has more than 100 trailblazers to light his or her way. It is this progress toward equal opportunity and representation that we celebrate today, during this month when we draw inspiration from an illustrious past to create a brighter future. On behalf of each current African-American member of the 110th Congress, I extend the deepest respect and gratitude to all those who preceded us.

### TRIBUTE TO LIVING WATER

### HON. JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. CULBERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Malcolm S. Morris, a constituent from Houston, who is dedicating his



life to the cause of clean, safe water for the needy of the world. Mr. Morris is the immediate past chairman of Living Water International, a 15-year-old faith-based NGO. Living Water has provided water to over 5 million world-wide on three continents.

Of particular note, Living Water has completed nearly 400 water projects providing clean water to over one million people of Kenya. At the urging of Malcolm Morris, Kenyan President Kibaki made a public commitment to provide water for the 20 million people of Kenya in need of water. In addition, Morris organized the completion of two Peace Wells, dedicated by President Kibaki, to end violence between two tribes that resulted in 20 deaths on Valentines Day, 2005. In fact, Madam Speaker, Mr. Morris and members of the Living Well Board, at the direction of President Kibaki and his cabinet, are dedicating a third Peace Well next week in Kenya.

Malcolm Morris practices what he preaches. His actions are an expression of his faith—to provide clean water and basic sanitation to one child, one family, one village at a time. Through Malcolm Morris' leadership and vision, the men and women of Living Water have become vessels of healing.

Now operating in 22 countries, Living Water has trained over 1,200 volunteers in drilling, pumping repair, and health and hygiene training. The number of persons being served is doubling nearly every 18 months. I should note that Mr. Morris is not just an observer of the international water crisis. He is a drill instructor, conducting drill training camps and has led water teams to schools in both Africa and Central America.

In addition to his ongoing involvement with Living Water, Malcolm Morris founded and serves as Chairman of the Millennium Water Alliance—a group of water related NGO's that includes Living Water International, Africare, CARE, Catholic Relief Services, Emmanuel International, Food for the Hungry, Lifewater International, Water for People, Water Missions international, WaterPartners international and World Vision. UNICEF acts in an advisory capacity to the MWA. The mission of the MWA is to initiate needed water and sanitation projects in an efficient and transparent manner.

Recently, as a result of Mr. Morris' strong and consistent advocacy, Congress passed a bill known as the Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act. The legislation makes access to safe water and sanitation for developing countries a specific policy objective of U.S. foreign assistance programs. The legislation will improve the quality of lives for millions of people around the world. Malcolm's insightfulness and persuasiveness made a legislative dream a reality.

One final mention, Madam Speaker. I should note that Malcolm Morris is Chairman and Co-Chief Executive Officer of a Fortune 1000 company—Stewart Title Guaranty Company, headquartered in Houston.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to rise and join me in tribute to Malcolm S. Morris. With the dedication of the water wells in Kenya, the peace spigot has been turned on. Clean water is a source of life and sustainable development. Simply put, Mr. Morris has demonstrated that we should view water as a currency for Peace.

## ADVANCED FUELS INFRASTRUCTURE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

**HON. JAMES T. WALSH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in fundamental support of H.R. 547, The Advanced Fuels Infrastructure Research and Development Act, which provides important direction for further development of the infrastructure needed to bring various biofuels, like ethanol, to the entire U.S. market.

Currently the biofuel infrastructure in our country is not ready for an influx of biofuels and the impending transition from petroleum fuels to alternative fuels. Appropriately, the corrosive nature of ethanol is addressed in H.R. 547. The bill directs federal agencies to look at new infrastructure components, along with potential additives to alleviate the harm ethanol and other biofuels can have on our Nation's current energy infrastructure.

But H.R. 547 needs to do more. My home State of New York is currently dependent on ethanol produced in the Midwest. Regions outside the cornbelt, such as New York, are subjected to additional costs associated with the transportation of ethanol across the country. Such costs can easily be alleviated by regional biofuel markets. While H.R. 547 addresses some of the issues surrounding biofuel infrastructure, it does not address the idea of regional biofuel markets. The concept of regional markets has the potential to supplement and augment the existing ethanol infrastructure while easing transportation risk and costs.

Further, regionalized biofuel markets have many economic implications. Local and regional markets bring jobs to rural areas throughout our country by putting farmers back to work. Regional markets create new opportunities for hard working Americans at refineries and jobs through the local transportation networks needed for ethanol distribution. Such economic activities add to the tax base in our small towns and immediately promote environmental consciousness.

Such environmental consciousness and the promise of a regional ethanol market are most notably being felt in Upstate NY. Stemming from research and development done at SUNY-ESF, shrub willow trees are now being used to produce cellulosic ethanol. This technological advancement was funded by the Federal government and the State of New York over the last decade. Through the financial backing and support of Catalyst Renewables, the ESF technology has been integrated with a biomass electric facility to create a CO<sub>2</sub> neutral to negative cellulosic ethanol refinery. This energy independent facility creates transportation fuel, electric energy and provides residual steam to other industries, which further reduces fossil fuel use. The result will be one of the first commercial cellulosic ethanol plants in North America which will create a regional market that will be felt throughout New York and surrounding states.

Such encouraging developments in New York State will greatly benefit from the ethanol technologies supported in H.R. 547. However, the cellulosic ethanol industry, which is still in

its infancy, faces numerous challenges. These include competition with established fossil fuels, corn based ethanol production, and tax inequality with wind and solar energy. As a Nation, we must promote the regionalization of biorefineries beyond the cornbelt. Currently, such markets do not receive equal funding opportunities, hindering biomass refinery commercialization.

If our Nation is serious about lessening our dependence on foreign oil and promoting alternative energies like that developed at ESF, we must embrace and encourage the economic benefits of regional biofuel markets.

## RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TONY CORTESE

**HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize the life of Tony Cortese, United States Postal Service Employee and President of the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193.

In his forty-two years as a proud and honorable employee of the United States Postal Service and twenty-seven years as the president of the National Association of Letter Carriers Local 193, NALC, Tony Cortese made a significant impact on the rights of Letter Carriers and on the well-being of his community.

Mr. Cortese was a fifty-five-year resident of San Jose, California and was a tireless advocate for Letter Carriers. As President of the NALC Local 193 for nearly thirty years, Mr. Cortese procured a union owned building for the members, secured expanded health benefits, and provided an open forum for discussion for union members and Federal, State, and local politicians.

Mr. Cortese's service was not just limited to advocacy for the rights of the union members, but extended into the San Jose community and beyond. Under Mr. Cortese's leadership, San Jose served as a pilot for what would become a national food drive sponsored by the NALC the first Saturday before Mother's Day. In fact, this national program, which began in 1991 and continues today, is the result of Mr. Cortese's own food drive initiative in 1990. This is but one example by which Mr. Cortese's unassuming, generous, and selfless manner made significant and positive changes in the lives of a countless number of people.

Along with my Santa Clara County colleagues, Congressman HONDA and Congresswoman ESHOO, and my constituents in San Jose, I am honored to pay tribute to Tony Cortese.

We thank his family for supporting his work over many years and for being the source of tremendous pride for him, his wife Barbara, his daughter Caroline and son-in-law Don Bauldry, his sister Mary and brother-in-law Vince Catalano, and his grandchildren Austin and Ashley. Our thoughts are with you during your grief, and we are honored with the years of service Mr. Cortese gave to both the NALC and the United States Postal Service as well as the residents of San Jose, California and the State of California. He will be dearly missed.



ON RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF F. WILLARD VICKERY AND HIS IMPACT ON THE SCOUTING COMMUNITY AND NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th birthday of F. Willard Vickery and his impact on the scouting community and Northwest Florida.

Mr. Vick, as he is known, began his journey in scouting in 1939, obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout 5 years later. Ever since his 12th birthday in 1939, he has held the Boy Scouts of America in the highest regard. Because of this pivotal time in our nation's history, Mr. Vick served as the Scoutmaster when adult leaders were sent off for military service. Soon he would follow his former Scoutmasters' paths by joining the United States Navy upon graduating from high school, and served in the medical corps in Tennessee. He remained in Tennessee after the War's end and attended college there. It was during this time that he became involved once again with scouting at a local camp, and also met Annie, his wife of nearly 59 years.

After graduating college, he became a full-time employee of the Boy Scouts of America in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This was the first of several scouting camps that Mr. Vick would be instrumental in having built throughout the South. Throughout the next decade, his career led him to Georgia and then Arkansas. As his professional experience grew, so did his reputation as a great scout leader. Mr. Vick became known as a leader who put passion into the development of professional young men through the Boy Scouts. In fact, the governor of Arkansas at the time was so impressed that he specifically tasked his son with learning from Mr. Vick.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Vick brought his family to Pensacola, Florida. Soon after, he was named the Executive Scout for the Gulf Coast Council. During his time in this position Mr. Vick made a very notable hire. Roy Williams, who was hired to be the Finance Director, later went on to become the Chief Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. There is no doubt in my mind that the leadership and mentoring provided by Mr. Vick played an instrumental role in shaping Roy into the scout leader he is today.

Roy also worked with many outside the scouting community, including members of First Baptist Church and Rotary International. Mr. Vick was a host for several foreign exchange students and also served on the Community Task Force addressing the problem of violence in public schools. Other educational work included serving as a volunteer drumming teacher to elementary and middle school students.

Certainly, scouting was the mainstay through most of his life, eventually earning him the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. His strong faith, along with that of his wife Annie, helped to guide and focus men and women of all ages to become better people through helping themselves and helping others.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rec-

ognize F. Willard Vickery on the occasion of his 80th birthday. His leadership through faith and good deeds to this day leaves an everlasting impression on those who know him.

**A RESOLUTION TO COMMEMORATE THE FISK JUBILEE SINGERS WITH A POSTAGE STAMP**

**HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to recommend that the United States Postal Service issue a postage stamp to commemorate the achievements of the Fisk University Jubilee Singers. I would like to thank my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Tennessee Delegation that have joined me to introduce this important legislation.

On January 9, 2007 Fisk University celebrated its 141-year anniversary. Known for its educational excellence and inspirational leadership the heart of Fisk University is found in its Jubilee Singers. The perseverance of the renowned Jubilee Singers has anchored Fisk University's success through the preservation of the Negro Spiritual as a musical art form and contributions to perpetuate the existence of the University.

Sponsorship for this liberal arts institution began with support from the American Missionary Association, as well as a great financial contribution by Tennessee Freedmen's Bureau member, General Clinton B. Fisk. His generosity led him to purchase 42 acres of land to start this school for newly freed slaves, ranging in ages from 6 to 67.

On August 22, 1867, three years after the Emancipation Proclamation, Fisk became incorporated and was finally able to provide students of color with the opportunity to obtain an education. When faced with financial hardship, it was the Jubilee Singers that overcame significant opposition to generate life-sustaining revenue.

The advancement of this choir throughout the racially prejudiced Nashville community brought great struggle and hostility. Parents and University staff were initially opposed to the choir traveling due to the threat of violence. As a result the financial sponsorship from the American Methodist Association denied funding for the school. Against these odds, the director and founder, George L. White, persevered and scheduled the choir a tour in the fall of 1867. Mr. White told the A.M.A., "I'm depending on God, not you," and set off with his singers and the last \$40 of the school's treasury.

Madam Speaker, the Fisk Jubilee Singers then embarked on what became an international tour to raise funds for Fisk University. Their first grand appearance was for a National Convention for Influential Ministers, in Ohio at Oberlin College. It was one of the first public performances of the secret music that African Americans had sung in fields and behind closed doors. In this performance, Negro Spirituals, which had been a means of communication and the celebration of spirituality for centuries, were first introduced to the public sphere.

The highlight of their international tour was an audience with Queen Victoria. Over-

whelmed with the choir's performance, Her Royal Majesty bestowed on the Jubilee Singers a gift of \$50,000. Her enthusiasm for the choir led to the painting of the life-size portrait of the original 11 Jubilee Singers. Over many years of performances the Jubilee Singers were able to raise over \$100,000 to finance the continued existence of Fisk University.

Madam Speaker, the accomplishments of the Jubilee Singers remain the reason Fisk University is able to educate students today. As a Fisk graduate, this institution of learning is responsible for my participation in this great Congress. Thus, commemorating the Jubilee Singers with a First Class U.S. postage stamp would be a tremendous honor to acknowledge the sacrifice and remember the services of these young individuals.

It took immense determination to pursue an education after many years of condemnation and rejection. The majority of the Jubilee Singers were ex-slaves; however, this did not hinder their achievement. Their status did not dictate or hinder their dreams of success. They used their gift of music to portray the realities and stories of their lives.

It was the commitment and hard work of the Jubilee Singers that should be highly regarded as a selfless act. Having the perseverance to fight racism, to overcome the constant hardship of personal financial troubles, through sickness, and fatigue, they continued for the sake of posterity.

Madam Speaker, commemorating the Jubilee Singers with a First Class postage stamp will acknowledge their legacy to the world. According to the National Science Foundation, Fisk alumni earned more doctoral degrees in the natural sciences than African-American graduates from any other college or university in the Nation.

The original students who left Fisk University in October 6, 1871, never had the opportunity to finish their education. Yet instead they risked their lives to save Fisk University knowing one day their dreams would come true.

Madam Speaker, for their past accomplishments and continued success for the future, I ask Congress to commemorate these heroes of my alma mater with a United States postage stamp. The legacy of the Fisk Jubilee Singers should be recognized as an enduring triumph of American history. I ask my colleagues to support this legislation and ask the House Leadership to swiftly bring this resolution to the floor for consideration.

**CELEBRATING NATIONAL DAY OF SERBIA AND HONORING SERBIA FOR 125 YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES**

**HON. MELISSA L. BEAN**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate National Day of Serbia, which observes the anniversary of the adoption of Serbia's first modern constitution in 1835. In addition, this year marks Serbia's first National Day as an independent nation-state.

February 15th is also Armed Forces Day in Serbia which commemorates the beginning of



the first Serbian uprising against the Ottoman Empire in 1804. On this day over 200 years ago, Serbians began the arduous effort to gain independence after nearly 300 years of Ottoman rule.

Finally, this year marks 125 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and Serbia. A strong democratic Serbia is crucial to the future of the former Yugoslav republics, the Balkans, and the rest of eastern Europe. Strong ties with the United States are necessary as Serbia looks to encourage international investment, expand its economy and move forward into the future.

Madam Speaker, please join me, Serbian-Americans and the citizens of Serbia in remembering such an important date in their history.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MR. SIDNEY  
SHELDON

**HON. MARY BONO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mrs. BONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay special tribute to a great American playwright, television visionary and literary artist whose stories and characters have entertained and impacted the lives of generations of Americans, Mr. Sidney Sheldon.

For more than 20 years Sidney Sheldon was a prominent and respected force in television who created such popular programs as *I Dream of Jeannie* (1965–70), *Hart to Hart* (1979–84), and *The Patty Duke Show* (1965–70). These sitcoms helped propel the careers of some of our most beloved actors on stage and screen including Barbara Eden, Larry Hagman, Stephanie Powers, Robert Wagner, and Patty Duke.

As a legendary writer, Sidney Sheldon won numerous awards that spanned three careers—a Broadway playwright, a Hollywood TV and movie screenwriter, and a bestselling novelist.

At the age of 50, Sidney Sheldon focused on creating best-selling novels that included *Master of the Game* (1982), *The Other Side of Midnight* (1973) and *Rage of Angels* (1980). Although those were his most famous literary works, Sidney Sheldon also published a total of 18 novels.

When expressing his passion for composing novels, Sidney Sheldon stated, “I love writing books. Movies are a collaborative medium, and everyone is second-guessing you. When you do a novel you’re on your own. It’s a freedom that doesn’t exist in any other medium.”

Sidney Sheldon was a proud American Veteran, who upon his return from service during World War II, focused his attention on writing plays for Broadway. In recognizing Sheldon’s unquestionable talent as a playwright, Sidney Sheldon won a Tony award for his work on the play *Redhead* in 1959.

Over the decades, Sheldon accrued numerous awards and recognition for his commitment to television, film, and stage, including winning an Academy Award for Writing Original Screenplay (1947) for *The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer*; and an Emmy Award for his work on *I Dream of Jeannie*, which aired on NBC.

Although Sidney Sheldon was born in Chicago, Illinois, he remained a life-long resident of the Coachella Valley. I was deeply fortunate to call the legendary Sidney Sheldon a friend.

I extend my deepest sympathy to the entire Sheldon family for their loss; a loss we all share. The passionate works of Sidney Sheldon that defined a generation will continue to live in the hearts of countless future generations of Americans. We celebrate his memory and our Nation is better for his service.

EXPRESSING SORROW OF THE  
HOUSE AT THE DEATH OF THE  
HONORABLE CHARLIE NORWOOD,  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS FROM  
THE STATE OF GEORGIA

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 14, 2007*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, this week our country lost a fine American with the death of Congressman CHARLIE NORWOOD. Congressmen NORWOOD was a tireless advocate for his district and the State of Georgia and an icon in the field of health care. His dogged determination to improve life for the average family and improving health care in this country for the patient that confronted overwhelming bureaucracy, increasing costs, and diminishing access was a hallmark of this great man’s career of public service.

Before I was elected to Congress and during one trip to Washington I met with my Chamber of Commerce as a private physician, I was asked which Member of Congress I would most like to meet. I responded that I would most like to meet with CHARLIE NORWOOD. To my surprise, they were able to set up a meeting for me with Congressman Norwood. Now at the time, I was a constituent of Majority Leader Dick Army who represented the 26th District before he retired and I succeeded him here in the House of Representatives. At that time, the Majority Leader was basically playing traffic cop to one of CHARLIE’s many bold health care initiatives. Unfortunately, when Congressman NORWOOD figured out I wasn’t visiting him as an emissary of Congressman Army he listened to my gushing praise and then quickly exited the meeting graciously. It was 6 years later that I would have the chance to meet again with Congressman NORWOOD, this time as a freshman member of the U.S. House of Representatives. The first question he asked me then was, “are you with me or against me,” then referring to his long battle for the Patient’s Bill of Rights.

Well, I’ve been with CHARLIE ever since. During my early tenure in office, he was a gracious mentor and even more so when I joined him as member of the Energy and Commerce Committee during the 109th Congress. CHARLIE’s strong defense of medical providers and patients, his tough stances on border security and national security, defined a man dedicated to his country. Even during his failing health, Congressman NORWOOD was as persistent as he ever was.

My thoughts and prayers are with Gloria and his family. America lost a great man. I lost a friend and a mentor. CHARLIE, we won’t forget you.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RAY LEE  
HUNT

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the life of humanitarian Ray Lee Hunt in honor of his 2007 Linz Award. Mr. Hunt is not only being recognized for his humanitarian effort and his longtime dedication to community services but for his exemplary leadership in supporting the revitalizing of downtown Dallas and his strong commitment to the community’s health and medical care system.

For over more than a decade, Mr. Hunt has provided health care to Dallas’s impoverished population through Dallas Medical Resources. As a chairman he has sought to secure Federal funding for Parkland Memorial Hospital. Mr. Hunt has not only improved the health care system in Dallas, but he has also helped promote the city as a medical center.

The Linz Award that Mr. Hunt will receive on April 4, 2007, it’s an award that is given annually to a Dallas County resident for his civic or humanitarian efforts. He is the 78th recipient of the award created in 1924 by Simon Linz, one of the founders of Linz Jewelers.

Mr. Hunt is one of those people who give so much to the community without asking any praises or interpretation. Mr. Hunt has helped raise millions of dollars to improve poor health care in Dallas County. Mr. Hunt has been chairman of Dallas Medical Resource since it was founded in the late 1980s. Mr. Hunt has also been a major benefactor to the Austin Street Shelter, the Genesis Women’s Shelter and UT Southwestern Medical Center.

He has also served our government in various ways. In 2001, President George W. Bush appointed him to the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board. He has also served as chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Hunt is a man who not only represents the spirit of Dallas but of our Nation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE ETHICS  
REFORM ACT OF 2007

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the Ethics Reform Act of 2007 with Congressman GREG WALDEN. This legislation would abolish the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct and establish an Independent Ethics Commission.

Recent legislation and current proposals attempt to reform the ethics process; however, they do not address the core issue at hand, Congress’s ability to govern its own ethical behavior. Members of Congress and their personal relationships can skew the evaluation process and create the potential for decisions being made upon a personal or political basis. This legislation would rectify these issues by replacing the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct with a panel made up of former



Members of Congress who can bring a higher level of objectivity to the table.

Our ethics reform bill would deal comprehensively with accountability and oversight of Congress in a way that cannot be accomplished under the current system.

ON RECOGNIZING THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF F. WILLARD VICKERY AND HIS IMPACT ON THE SCOUTING COMMUNITY AND NORTHWEST FLORIDA

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, February 16, 2007*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 80th birthday of F. Willard Vickery and his impact on the scouting community and Northwest Florida.

Mr. Vick, as he is known, began his journey in scouting in 1939, obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout five years later. Ever since his 12th birthday in 1939, he has held the Boy Scouts of America in the highest regard. Because of this pivotal time in our nation's history, Mr. Vick served as the Scoutmaster when adult leaders were sent off for military service. Soon he would follow his former Scoutmasters' paths by joining the United States Navy upon graduating from high school, and served in the medical corps in Tennessee. He remained in Tennessee after the War's end and attended college there. It was during this time that he became involved once again with scouting at a local camp, and also met Annie, his wife of nearly 59 years.

After graduating college, he became a full-time employee of the Boy Scouts of America in Chattanooga, Tennessee. This was the first of several scouting camps that Mr. Vick would be instrumental in having built throughout the South. Throughout the next decade, his career led him to Georgia and then Arkansas. As his professional experience grew, so did his reputation as a great scout leader. Mr. Vick became known as a leader who put passion into the development of professional young men through the Boy Scouts. In fact, the governor of Arkansas at the time was so impressed that he specifically tasked his son with learning from Mr. Vick.

In the early 1960s, Mr. Vick brought his family to Pensacola, Florida. Soon after, he

was named the Executive Scout for the Gulf Coast Council. During his time in this position Mr. Vick made a very notable hire. Roy Williams, who was hired to be the Finance Director, later went on to become the Chief Executive of the Boy Scouts of America. There is no doubt in my mind that the leadership and mentoring provided by Mr. Vick played an instrumental role in shaping Roy into the scout leader he is today.

Mr. Vick also worked with many outside the scouting community, including members of First Baptist Church and Rotary International. He was a host for several foreign exchange students and also served on the Community Task Force addressing the problem of violence in public schools. Other educational work included serving as a volunteer drumming teacher to elementary and middle school students.

Certainly, scouting was the mainstay through most of his life, eventually earning him the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. His strong faith, along with that of his wife Annie, helped to guide and focus men and women of all ages to become better people through helping themselves and helping others.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to recognize F. Willard Vickery on the occasion of his 80th birthday. His leadership through faith and good deeds to this day leaves an everlasting impression on those who know him.

THE SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, February 12, 2007*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my great concern over the current funding situation facing rural schools. The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 provided compensation to counties with a large presence of National Forest lands. Unfortunately, the law authorizing these payments expired at the end of 2006. When it became apparent the reauthorization would not pass the House through regular order during the 109th Congress, my col-

leagues and I introduced H.R. 6423, which would have extended the funding for one year, providing us with more time to work for a long-term solution. Despite our efforts, the 109th Congress adjourned without reauthorizing the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act. However, I maintain my commitment to providing this much-needed funding for rural counties.

I fully support the reauthorization of this law, which provides essential funding for over 4,400 schools in 780 counties. This money compensates counties for the loss of tax revenue as the Federal Government placed large amounts of land in forest reserves. The revenue-sharing mechanism that was created for the counties when this land transfer occurred is no longer viable due to decreasing timber sales.

With nearly 5.5 million acres of National Forests in my Congressional District, my counties are greatly affected by the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000. As an example from a county in my district, Plumas County School District receives roughly \$2.5 million annually from this program, which represents 20 percent of their annual operating budget. Without this funding, the County is preparing to:

Lay off 9 administrators (out of a total of 16); lay off 47 teachers (out of a total of 150); close all school libraries; possibly close some or all cafeterias and cut transportation activities.

In Sierra County, schools will be shut down and students will be bussed up to 3 hours over the State line to attend school in Nevada. As you can see, reauthorization of this program is essential.

The Federal Government has a responsibility to compensate these counties from which large amounts of land were taken to create the National Forest System, and by failing to produce a real solution that will provide this funding, we are neglecting that responsibility.

I was disappointed to see that no funding was provided for rural schools in the continuing resolution we have recently passed. I am hopeful that the emergency supplemental we will soon consider will contain the needed funding for these counties, which are truly in dire circumstances.